

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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'MAKING ROOM FOR CHRIST'

BY REV. CHAS. A. PORTER, D.D.

Associate Pastor Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Ill.

The angel of the Lord announced, in the language of Luke 2:10, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Angels always seem glad to banish the fear of men who are earnestly seeking the Lord as is evidenced at the end of our Saviour's earthly ministry when, at his resurrection, heavenly messengers declared to the women who came to His tomb, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen." (Matt. 28:5-6).

The angel's message at the birth of Jesus should have been hailed far and wide by men everywhere as the best news that had ever come to a world lost in sin and darkness. How sad, therefore, to read that, at his birth "there was no room for them (Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Saviour, and Joseph) in the inn" (Luke 2:7). He came unto His own (creation) and His own (people) received Him not! This had been long foretold by the prophet Isaiah who has said, "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted."

No room at the inn? There was also no room in the hearts of His own people.

While the majority were indifferent to His claims, there were those who did believe on Him, and receiving Him, they received the power (or right) to become the sons of God. (John 1:12) They were known as His disciples and were to be found almost always in His company during the three and one half years of His public ministry. Surely there was plenty of room in their hearts and thoughts for the blessed Son of God!

Our Lord had been telling His disciples of that most important ministry that He had come into the world to perform — to die upon the cross and to arise from the dead. (Matt. 17:22-23) The Apostle Paul later made it clear that these two great facts formed the very foundation of the Gospel (I Cor. 15:3-4). Their minds seemed to be occupied, however, with other thoughts. These were expressed in a question which they addressed to Jesus in the first verse of chapter 8, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?" They were so concerned about themselves and their own prominence that they

failed to grasp the significance of the marvelous truth which the Lord had been expounding. No room for Him and His wonderful word in their thoughts! Another instance of neglect on their part is seen in the 13th chapter of John's Gospel where Jesus washed the disciples feet and wiped them with the towel of servitude with which He had girded Himself. They had overlooked this common courtesy toward Him when He came into the house. What remarkable humiliation upon the part of Him, who knew that He was "come from God, and that He went to God."

At the cross of Calvary, less room was found for the Saviour than at any other time and place. Earth had no room for Him as He was there suspended above its

(Continued on page three)



DR. CHAS. A. PORTER

"Sword of The Lord" Evangelists Report 156 Forward in Baptist Church, Eden, N.Y.

BY EVANGELIST WILLIAM H. RICE

Chel Stockwell and I closed a blessed revival campaign on Easter Sunday with the First Baptist Church of Eden, N. Y. Some one hundred fifty-six people came forward during the campaign in response to the gospel invitation. Of this number, approximately forty-nine were conversions and one hundred seven who came to rededicate their lives to Christ, to make sure of their salvation, to join the church, etc. It was a wonderful campaign!

The meeting began rather slowly with small interest and attendance. The church had not engaged in special soul winning services for years and so it took several days for them to really "warm up" and to get into the spirit of the meeting.

The first real "break" came on the first Thursday night when four teen-age boys were saved. They were members of a "gang" of boys that had been causing quite a bit of trouble in the town. The night that four of them were saved, two others were caught with a stolen car and imprisoned. One of the young converts said to me later, "Boy, am I glad that while they were out stealing that car, I was here getting saved! If I had been with them, look where I'd be tonight." He had the joy of persuading three more of his unsaved friends to come to church with him and seeing them saved.

Another fine service was the first Saturday of the revival. We were invited to sing and speak at a youth rally in North Collins, five miles from Eden. It was a splen-

(Continued on page two)

What Does God Think of Me?

BY OSWALD J. SMITH, D.D., LITT.D.

Pastor Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

We are going to let God search us. We want to find out if possible just what He thinks of us. Our prayer will be the cry of the Psalmist, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me." And may He turn the searchlight of His Holy Spirit upon us until we are enabled to see ourselves as He sees us.

We are not trying to find out what the world thinks of us. Newspapers, books, and gossip may give the very opposite report of us to what God would give. They may praise while He condemns; or they may condemn where He praises. We are not even asking the opinion of our nearest and dearest friends. Even they may be deceived in us. "Man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart." Our only desire is to discover what God thinks of us.

We shall some day stand face to face with God. And then, in the sight of the whole universe, we shall be unveiled and the innermost secrets of our hearts laid bare. The cloak that hid us from man will not hide us from God. Is it not better to find out now what He thinks of us, and if, as He weighs us in the balance we are found wanting, make up at once what we lack and get right with Him?

And so I ask, "What does God think of me?" God who searcheth the heart, as He looks into mine, what does He find there? Am I well pleasing in His sight? What does He think of me?

I. What Does God Think of My Work?

Does he find me genuine and sincere, free from all deception, and



DR. OSWALD J. SMITH

a stranger to hypocrisy? Never mind how much I blunder. The question is, Am I earnest? Am I sincere? If my motives are right, He will overlook my mistakes. Am I loyal to Him? Do I work from my heart, or are my labours merely professional? Is there any thought of personal gain? Am I selfish? Has money any influence in my decisions or plans? Would I serve Him just as earnestly if I got nothing out of it? Am I genuine?

Is my work counting for God? Does my life tell for Jesus? Am I able to lead others into a life of power and victory? Can I win souls to Christ? Do I ever try? Have I spoken to any one about his soul during the past year? Have I a message, or is my experience too shallow to mean anything to others? Do my unsaved friends know that I am a Christian?

II. What Does God Think of My Social Relationships?

Have I obeyed His summons, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," and, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers?" Are the things I am doing pleasing to Him? Can He smile upon me? Is there any pleasure that is driving Him from my heart and shutting out His presence? Is my conscience at rest, or does it trouble me when I do certain things and go to certain places? Am I willing to give up all for Jesus and to choose Him before the world? He gave up all for me. Do I want to please Him or am I going to argue the question with Him? Do I waste time that rightly belongs to Him? Are my evenings given up to social events when they are so much needed for His work?

III. What Does God Think of My Devotional Life?

Do I spend enough time with Him in private? Or am I hurried? Do I get alone with God? Do I love to meet Him in the inner chamber? Is communion with Him sweet to me? Is Jesus real? Does He fully satisfy?

Am I a student of God's Word? Do I study it in private, or is it all done in public? Does He unfold its secrets and make it real to me? Do I claim His promises and make

(Continued on page four)

THE ELECTROCUTION OF RAYMOND HAMILTON, MURDERER

IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE? WHAT PRODUCES RAY HAMILTONS? HOW CAN FATHERS AND MOTHERS SAFEGUARD THEIR BOYS? WILL GOD HOLD AMERICA TO ACCOUNT FOR CRIMES UNPUNISHED? AND COULD RAYMOND HAMILTON HAVE REPENTED AT THE LAST MOMENT AND GONE TO HEAVEN? READ THE BIBLE ANSWERS.

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(A sermon preached Sunday night, May 12, 1935, at Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, 201 E. Tenth St., Dallas, Texas. The writer was at that time pastor in Dallas, home of Raymond Hamilton and his family. Recent news dispatches tell how Floyd Hamilton, brother of Raymond Hamilton, attempted escape from Alcatraz Prison and was recaptured. Twenty-two came forward to profess faith in Christ the night this sermon was preached and we reprint it, earnestly asking God to bless it in its Bible teaching on the death penalty and the wages of sin and its gospel preaching to convict and save sinners everywhere).

At 12:19 A. M. Friday, May 10th, 1935, Raymond E. Hamilton, thief, hijacker, bank robber, and gunman, died in the electric chair at Huntsville, Texas, for the murder of the penitentiary guard, Major Crowson. The guard was slain by gun fire when Hamilton, Joe Palmer and others escaped from the State Penitentiary January 16, 1934. Another guard, Boazman, was wounded but did not die. The break was planned by Hamilton. He and Palmer both fired at the guards. Both were convicted of murder and sentenced to death, in trial by jury in Huntsville, Texas. Palmer was electrocuted just preceding Hamilton.

Hamilton had been convicted

again and again of robbery with fire arms, had been convicted previously of murder and given a life sentence, and in various trials had been sentenced to a total of nearly four hundred years imprisonment! He had escaped from the county jail, from Eastham Prison Farm of the State Penitentiary January 16, 1934, when the guard was killed for which he received the death penalty, and again from death house at Huntsville, July 22, 1934; boasted to newspaper men and others that no prison could hold him long, but that he would escape. But for all his boasting, his wanton disregard for human life, for the commands of God, and the authority of government, Ray-

mond Hamilton died in the electric chair. His short career of crime came to an abrupt end, and the thug went out to meet God before he was twenty-two years old!

Why This Sermon Was Preached And Written

I have no desire to bring added grief to the mother and relatives of Ray Hamilton. Any comforting service I could render to them would be gladly given, whether to visit, sing, preach or pray. They have a heavy sorrow, and worse, a heavier shame. I sympathize with them, and have prayed again and again for God to bless them and to turn their hearts to Him. I do not wish to embarrass them.

But every time I think about Ray Hamilton's mother, I think about the widow who was left with a broken heart to face sad future alone when J. N. Bucher was shot down at Hillsboro, Texas, so that the youthful bandit and his pal could steal a paltry seventy dollars. I think of the family of Major Crowson who lost his life stand-

(Continued on page two)

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The Electrocution of Raymond Hamilton

(Continued from page one)

ing between decent people and these gunmen and thugs. I think of the dozens of homes embittered and hurt by the murders, the robberies, the kidnapping of this cowardly criminal. Other mothers, mothers who rear law abiding citizens, ought to be thought of just as much as the mothers of thugs.

Besides that, I think of the countless thousands of boys who, should Raymond Hamilton have gone unpunished, would have followed in his footsteps. So I preach this plain sermon on "The Electrocution of Ray Hamilton."

The Text — Luke 13:1-5

"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? 5. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Here Jesus preached a sensational sermon. He drew some startling lessons from the death sentence which Pilate carried out on a group of Galilean criminals. They were killed and their blood was mingled with the blood of their unholy sacrifices. It was the talk of the day. The disciples asked Jesus to discuss the question and He did.

You can see then that Jesus preached on the execution of certain criminals and drew a lesson to warn the people to repent. Certainly every preacher, then, ought to preach on the execution of such criminals as Clyde Barrow, Ray Hamilton, and Bruno Hauptmann. The Bible exactly fits present day needs and any man who truly preaches the Word of God, in the Spirit of Christ, must preach against present day sins and apply the Bible to men as they are today. If the Lord Jesus lived and preached in Dallas today, He would preach, I am thoroughly convinced, on the awful issues involved in the official execution of criminals for their crimes against society and against God.

Pilate, the Roman Governor, who had put to death these criminals mentioned in Luke 13:1, is the same Pilate who later would condemn Jesus to be crucified. Of course Jesus knew that, and yet in this case He takes the side of Pilate and the government, against the criminals. The execution of criminals by Pilate and the killing of eighteen others by the direct hand of God, when the tower of Siloam fell on them, are mentioned in the same passage just alike, and Jesus said to the people that unless they repented they would perish like these Galileans who were put to death by Pilate and like other sinners put to death by the hand of God. Clearly Jesus here endorsed the death penalty as administered by the Roman Governor.

I. Human Governments, As the Ministers of God, Must Punish Crime

Much has been said of "the divine right of kings" and we modern people boast that we do not believe in such a doctrine. But it is still true as Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." Governments hold their rule only by the grace of God. The governments of the earth usually do not serve God as they ought and more often they are controlled by Satan. But God still

holds them to account to punish crime. Romans 13:1-7 teaches this very clearly.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath but also for conscience sake. 6. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers attending continually upon this very thing. 7. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."

Concerning the governments and government officers, such as sheriffs, police, governors, presidents, etc., the Lord here says "the powers that be are ordained of God" (verse 1).

"Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God" (verse 2).

"For he is the minister of God to thee for good" (verse 4).

"For he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (verse 5).

"For they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing" (verse 6).

According to this Scripture, when the sheriff and his deputies captured Raymond Hamilton, they acted as the agents of God. When the jury convicted him of murder and sentenced him to the electric chair, they acted as the ministers of God. The warden at the penitentiary who pulled the switch when Raymond Hamilton died, was "the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." When Governor Allred refused to pardon or commute Raymond Hamilton's sentence to life imprisonment, he acted as a servant of God and in good conscience was bound to do so.

When Raymond Hamilton robbed banks, shot at the officers, stole automobiles, and carried on his wicked career of crime, he was the enemy of God. When he resisted arrest, he resisted God. His crimes were not principally against men but against the God who made him, and that God took a hand in the matter and brought him to justice in the electric chair. I am certain that Raymond Hamilton was captured in answer to prayer. I am certain that God was glorified in his death more than in his life.

Let me say here and now that the man who is not a good citizen is not a good Christian. I want publicly to take my stand with the officers of the law who arrested Raymond Hamilton, with the jury that convicted him, with the Governor who refused to interfere with the death penalty, and with the warden who did his duty. I want to take the part with the widow of the man shot down in Hillsboro by Clyde Barrow and Raymond Hamilton instead of these young thugs. I take my position with the penitentiary guard who stood between decent law abiding people and murderers and thieves, standing for the security of life and property, standing for righteousness as against crime. Every preacher in America should come boldly to the help of decent officers who honestly tried to enforce the law and should condemn, just as Jesus did, the conscienceless criminal lawyers who prostitute their profession, who rape justice, defeat the law and victimize society in the defense of criminals. No lawyer has a right, in the defense of a criminal, to do more than to see that he gets justice. A lawyer who for money defeats the law and frees the guilty criminal, is the enemy of God and of man. All of us should want a man accused of crime to have a fair trial. But any man who wants a proven criminal to escape justice because of some technicality or a false plea of insanity, or a maudlin appeal to sympathy, is the enemy of good government, a traitor to his country and untrue to God.

The first lie of the devil recorded in the Bible is, "Ye shall not surely die." From that time to this the devil has tried to defeat justice, tried to tell men that sin would not be punished, but the Word of God still says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4), and, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), and "Be sure your sins will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Preachers everywhere should preach that sin will be punished, YEA, AS SURE AS THERE IS A GOD SIN WILL BE PUNISHED! And preachers and church people should try to see that sin is punished so others may be afraid of sin. If crime goes temporarily unpunished, multitudes will enter a life time of crime.

But in this world or in the next, the criminal must meet his crime. The government that punishes crime does so as the servant of God and should have the prayerful, earnest, faithful support of all Christians and well meaning people everywhere.

II. The Death Penalty Is of God

Many people are against capital punishment and use various arguments to prove that the death penalty is out of place in these modern times. They claim to be more merciful and more Christian than others. But the Bible explicitly commands the death penalty for certain criminals, particularly murder, kidnapping, etc. Our modern laws demanding the death penalty for murder and rape are based upon unmistakable Bible teachings and should be enforced at any cost.

The God of the Bible is a God of love, but the God of wrath just as surely. The Bible says, "For our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). In Hebrews 10:31 we are told that "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Death came in this world as the punishment of God against sin. When God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, the Scripture tells us it was because He did not wish man to eat of the tree of life and live forever in his sin. The sentence of death is passed on the entire human race, and God, the just and holy God, is the one who pronounced the sentence. Romans 5:12 says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

God has declared that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrew 9:27). In all past human history only two men, Enoch and Elijah, passed out of this life without dying a physical death. In the future, only the Christians who are alive when Jesus comes, will escape death. Every living person in the earth must die, is born to die. God Himself has passed the sentence of death on men because men are sinners. Clearly then, one would expect the death penalty to be of God.

God Himself Often Slays the Wicked

God in His own way often intervenes to kill the wicked. The Bible gives case after case of men supernaturally killed because of their sins. Genesis 38:7 tells us, "And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord slew him." A little later Onan, Er's brother, displeased the Lord, "wherefore he slew him also." Nadab and Abihu, priests, sons of Aaron, brought strange fire into the tabernacle contrary to the command of God. Fire came out from God and destroyed them (Lev. 10:2). Others rebelled against God in the days of Moses. In the wilderness, and the ground opened up and swallowed them (Numbers 16:32). In the New Testament they lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11). King Herod made a speech and the people said "It is the voice of a God, and not of a man," and because he did not give the glory to God the angel of the Lord smote him, he was eaten with worms and died! (Acts 12:20-23). God Himself often put individuals to death in Bible times. We may be certain that He does the same today. Many a drunken wretch meets God suddenly, unexpectedly, in an automobile accident. Last Friday two men cursed and mocked God. When an earnest Christian man reproved them and

warned them, they mocked all the more and laughed at the idea of God's judgment. Nine hours later one of them fell and broke three ribs, punctured a lung, and was carried to the hospital. Two days later the other crashed his car head long into a tree and was carried senseless to the hospital, gravely injured. Doubtless in multitudes of cases, God brings sudden judgment on sinners without waiting for law to take its course nor for the slow process of nature.

God Assessed Death Penalty For Individuals

In Leviticus 24:10-14 we are told of a young man who blasphemed the name of God. "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him." Achan was put to death by the command of God (Joshua 7:25). A man who broke the Sabbath was put to death after prayerful inquiry and by the plain command of God (Numbers 15:32-36). Likewise, Samuel put to death Agag by the command of the Lord (1 Samuel 15:33). And Elijah put to death the prophets of Baal (1 King 18:40). God plainly commanded the death penalty for specified individuals many times in the Bible.

III. Bible Commands Capital Punishment For Murder

There was no human government outside of the family before the flood. There is no reference to a king or ruler of any kind. When Cain killed his brother Abel, there was none to bring him to justice, though God cursed the ground because of his sin. Very probably one reason for the enormous wickedness of the race before the flood, so that "the earth was filled with violence," was that there was no organized society to punish crime. Immediately after the flood, God gave Noah the command that henceforth the death penalty should be executed on murderers. Genesis 9:5, 6, says:

"And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."

Noah is the father of all the human race alive on the earth today, and for the whole race God gave the command, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." This is not the Mosaic law. This is before a Jew ever lived on the earth. This is hundreds of years before Moses or Mount Sinai or the ceremonial law. This is moral law and so required of every generation the same. The death penalty is commanded for murder.

The death penalty is commanded for witches and fortune tellers (Exo. 22:18, Lev. 20:27); for idolaters (Exo. 22:20); for he that cursed or struck his father or mother (Lev. 20:9, Exo. 21:15, 17); and for adultery (Lev. 20:10-15 and Lev. 21:9).

Death Penalty For Kidnapers
The national "Lindbergh Law," providing the death penalty for kidnapers whose cases come under the jurisdiction of federal courts, is based on the plain command of the Scripture. Exodus 21:16 says:

"And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death." Deuteronomy 24:7 says:

"If a man be found stealing any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and maketh merchandise of him, or selleth him; then that thief shall die; and thou shalt put evil away from among you."

Kidnaping, along with murder and rape, deserves the death penalty in the estimate of God's Word.

Bible Verses on Murder
The command of God, requiring capital punishment for murder, given in Genesis 9:5, 6, is repeated many times in the Bible. Read these astounding verses from the Bible:

"He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death" (Exo. 21:12).

"And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee, a place whither he shall flee. But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbor, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die" (Exo. 21:13, 14).

Sword Evangelists Report Meeting In Eden, N. Y.

(Continued from page one)

did occasion with sixteen forward, thirteen of them conversions. It was a real joy to watch the Christians work. As soon as some young person stepped forward for Christ, some good friend of his would quickly come to meet him, go to one side with him and show him some Scriptures explaining the plan of salvation and pray with him.

Perhaps the best service of the revival was on the first Sunday morning when eighty-nine people came forward. It was a thrilling and deeply touching sight to see men, women, and children come forward with tears to accept the simple invitation, "Confess your sins this morning — not to me, for it is none of my business — to God and get right with Him!" An old man, an official of the church, led the way with tears to confess his backsliding. Then came a younger man, another official who had been very skeptical regarding revival meetings, and critical of the pastor. Others poured down the aisles. Our hearts were thrilled and stirred when the local saloon keeper came forward with his wife and, I believe, his daughter! Others came! Some to confess Christ, others to rededicate their lives to Him, others to restore fellowship with friends. It was a service we who were there can never forget.

The closing Sunday of the revival thirty-two came forward. That I know about, perhaps more. Fifteen at least of these were straight out conversions, others had been uncertain about their salvation and still others came to rededicate their lives and join the church. It was a wonderful close to a really great revival.

The pastor, the Rev. Willis R. Hull, is a remarkable man of God. Less than a year ago he was pastor of a fine church in Endicott, N. Y. When he felt led of God to go to the smaller church in Eden, where he receives exactly half the salary paid him in Endicott, the Endicott church offered to give him a year's paid vacation, a raise in pay, an assistant pastor, or anything he asked if only he would not leave. But he felt very definitely it was God's will for him to go to Eden with its needy field and God is richly blessing his work there.

"Bill" and "Chel" have a little time open. Address Evangelist William H. Rice, 314 Naperville, Wheaton, Ill.—Editor).

"And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death" (Lev. 24:17).

"And he that killeth a beast, he shall restore it: and he that killeth a man, he shall be put to death" (Lev. 24:21).

"And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death" (Num. 35:16).

"And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death" (Num. 35:17).

"Or if he smite him with an hand weapon of wood, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death" (Num. 35:18).

"The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him" (Num. 35:20, 21).

"But if he thrust him of hatred, or hurt him by laying in wait, that he die; or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him" (Num. 35:20, 21).

"Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness

(Continued on page three)

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The Electrocution of Raymond Hamilton

(Continued from page two)

shall not testify against any person to cause him to die" (Num. 35:30)

"Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death; but he shall be surely put to death" (Num. 35:31)

"So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it" (Num. 35:33).

"But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities: Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee" (Deut. 19:11-13).

When Ray Hamilton and Joe Palmer were put to death in the electric chair last Friday, May 10th, the state government was simply carrying out the command of God's Word that the murderer should be put to death.

In Exodus 21:29, the Scripture shows that a man even indirectly responsible for death, should be executed. Criminal negligence, resulting in death, in the Bible, is counted worthy of capital punishment. Exodus 21:29 says:

"But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death."

An Incurable Son to Be Slain

Not only murderers and kidnappers were to receive the death penalty, but the Bible shows that a disobedient, incurable son, who is just starting on the road to crime, should be executed publicly, and that his own father and mother should take the lead in his execution. That command is given in Deuteronomy 21:18-21 which says:

"If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19. Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20. And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. 21. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear."

I am trying to drive into every heart this fact that God is against sin, that sin must be punished, that the death penalty must be executed for deliberate murder, and that every sinner who dies without Christ goes to eternal death, the second death.

Every time some murderer or rapist is sentenced to the electric chair, the Governor is besieged by the loved ones to thwart justice and prevent the law being carried out. Preachers sign petitions, petitions are circulated in the churches, urging the Governor to turn loose such criminals on society, to suspend the sentence or commute it to a lesser punishment. I have been asked to intercede with the Governor in such cases, but I will not do it. In these days, rarely if ever, is a man given the death penalty without absolute proof. Juries are too easy, not too harsh. Law enforcement is too lax, not too strict. Preachers should learn that they do not serve God by a mushy-mouthed sentimentality which encourages crime, breaks down government, thwarts justice, and dishonors God.

God Holds the Nation Accountable For Violence and Blood

Before the flood, God's wrath was brought upon the whole race because "the earth was filled with violence." Largely for that reason the flood destroyed the whole human race, save one family. When God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach, "Forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown," the city ran with the blood of violence. When the king got off his throne to fast and pray, he put on sackcloth and ashes and commanded every man to leave off violence and pray. So God repented of the evil that He said He would do and did it not.

Violence and blood, unpunished, mean that God must bring wrath upon any nation which permits it.

When Cain killed Abel, God said, "Thy brother's blood crieth out of the ground." So God cursed the ground that it should not bring forth its fruit in fulness to Cain. God is a just God. Sin must be punished. Unpunished murder will bring the curse of God on any nation. Numbers 35:33, quoted above, says:

"So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it."

There is no way to cleanse a land of bloodshed, except by the blood of the murderer! The same thing is taught in Deuteronomy 19:13 where we are told, about the murderer, "Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee."

The first coroner's jury to ever investigate a death was in the land of Israel and at the command of God. That command is given in Deuteronomy 21:1-9 where the city nearest the place the body is found is held accountable for the crime. The elders of the city were to investigate, and if the murderer could not be found, they were to offer a sacrifice to God lest He should hold them guilty of innocent blood.

IV. Governor Allred Refused to Interfere

In a written statement from the Governor, made public Thursday, May 9, reasons were given why he would not commute the death penalty to life imprisonment. Governor Allred's statement is as follows:

"After careful consideration I have concluded that I should not interfere with the lawful execution of Joe Palmer and Raymond Hamilton.

No particular appeal has been made in behalf of Palmer, but numerous petitions have been received asking commutation of Hamilton's death penalty to life imprisonment. Most of these petitions are from well meaning citizens who, I am sure, are not cognizant of all the facts of the case.

"The chief argument advanced is that Raymond Hamilton did not fire the particular shot that killed Major Crowson, a prison guard. The record shows, however, that Raymond Hamilton planned and provided the weapons for a wholesale delivery from the prison farm which resulted in Crowson's murder. The record shows that both Hamilton and Palmer fired on two guards; that Guard Crowson was killed and Guard Boazman seriously wounded. The witnesses differed as to which fired the first or fatal shot, but the evidence is uncontradicted that both Hamilton and Palmer were firing on the two guards. If Hamilton did not kill Crowson, it was due to his marksmanship, not his intentions.

"Under the law, however, argument as to which of these men actually fired the fatal shot is immaterial. When two men embark upon a career of crime or plan a hijacking and some innocent person is killed and a jury assesses the death penalty for both of them, I see no reason why the Governor should set aside the verdict. The criminal element may just as well understand that murderers, hijackers and bank robbers are going to have to pay the supreme penalty if a jury gives it to them. The law has been trampled under foot long enough. Human life and property must be made secure.

"Record Outstanding"

"Raymond Hamilton's record of crime is outstanding. In a statement made to a reporter, he boasted that no prison could hold him if he were granted commutation. By his own admissions he has committed dozens of robbery crimes for which the death penalty might be inflicted under the law. Surely when the law says that a man may be put to death for robbery with firearms, then sometime when that crime is multiplied a hundred times a jury is justified in concluding that both the convict and society will be better off without him.

A Serious Matter

"The legal execution of a human being is, of course, a serious, a

serious matter. There are times, indeed, in the experience of every Governor when he doubts the wisdom of it, but the fact remains that it is the law of the land. However heart rending it may be to me personally to have to pass on these death penalty cases, I have concluded that the Governor is not acting as an individual, but is part of the institution of government. Not alone as punishment for either Joe Palmer or Raymond Hamilton, but in the interest of society to deter others from the commission of like offenses, I am of the firm conviction that the law should take its course."

Comments on Governor Allred's Statement

One of the most noteworthy statements of Governor Allred is that "No particular appeal has been made in behalf of Palmer, but numerous petitions have been received asking commutation of Hamilton's death penalty to life imprisonment." The Dallas Journal says that 35,000 people petitioned the Governor to save Hamilton's life. Hamilton was a proven criminal of the deepest dye, known to be guilty of practically every crime, participating in at least two murders, attempting murder several other times, again and again known to have committed robbery with fire arms, which is punishable by the death penalty in Texas, and having been sentenced by the courts to a total of nearly 400 years imprisonment.

Joe Palmer was a murderer but had been convicted only once before and assessed twenty years penalty. But the crime fans made "no particular appeal," the Governor says, in behalf of Palmer. He had not been a criminal long enough to become a hero in the minds of this movie-going, criminal worshipping, law despising public. But Ray Hamilton, the author of the plot that made Joe Palmer a murderer, and equally guilty with him in execution of it, and convicted of many, many more crimes, had 35,000 people to take his part against society, against the law and against God, begging that his crime go unpunished! In the nature of the case, any other punishment but the death penalty would have been no punishment at all, since already more years in the penitentiary had been assessed Ray Hamilton than he could have served out in six or eight lifetimes.

Raymond Hamilton was buried in an \$800.00 casket. That \$800.00 casket bodes no good for the future of Texas. That floral offering at the funeral, sent by the associates of Baby Face Nelson, notorious northern gangster, means no good to the youth of America. These things mean that Texas criminals are organized and connected with northern gangsters. They mean that crime has become a business, temporarily a paying business. They mean, worst of all, that multitudes of the people are in sympathy with crime, count criminals as heroes and will do all they can to prevent the law being enforced against even the most terrible of crimes!

Unpunished Crime Will Mean the Doom of America

Any government that cannot punish crime, cannot stop crime. If crime is not adequately, swiftly and justly punished, then inevitably crime will increase, wholesale lawlessness will occur, the expense of government will become unbearable and national deterioration, disorganization and the fall of government is certain.

That is the teaching of the Scripture as well as history. Remember that Genesis 9:5, 6 says: "And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." God requires the punishment of crime. "I will require it," God says. Again in Deuteronomy 19:13 the Lord says, "Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee." It will not go well with any nation that has crime unpunished. God promises that. Again in Numbers 35:33, after demanding the death penalty, the Lord says: "So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed

"MAKING ROOM FOR CHRIST"

(Continued from page one)

therein, but by the blood of him that shed it."

The land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein "BUT BY THE BLOOD OF HIM THAT SHED IT!" God will store up punishment for the whole nation for all the blood that is shed unpunished. The wrath of God is on America because we are the most violent nation on the earth, with many, many times more crimes of violence, more murders, than any civilized nation. That means the certain doom of America! I have no doubt that this is one reason God has chastened America with depression, tornadoes, drought, dust storms, bank failures and unemployment. The curse of God is on wicked America!

Unpunished crime means that the populace is friendly to wickedness and therefore unfriendly to God. So God teaches it, and so God will hold men to account.

Pray For Governors and Officers

May God bless Governor Allred! His position is a difficult one, as is that of every Governor who has the power of pardon in his hands. The Bible commands Christians to pray for such men. I Timothy 2:1, 2 says: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For Kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." We sin if we do not pray for, encourage and support those whom God has put in charge of government. Pray that police officers, juries, judges, and governors, will do their duty to stamp out crime, and so appease the wrath of an angry God against a nation full of violence!

V. Influences That Made Ray Hamilton What He Was

A DIVORCED HOME

Ray Hamilton came out of a divorced home. That itself helps to explain Ray Hamilton. An alarmingly large proportion of criminals come from divorced homes. Delinquent girls in a startlingly large percentage of cases, come from homes broken by divorce. Reformatories are filled in the main, by boys who did not have the steady influence of both parents working in harmony. Divorce is the enemy of society, the breeder of crime. The newspapers state that Ray Hamilton's father, living in Louisiana, now married again, sought to have the boy buried there. His mother, living in Dallas, and married again, wished the boy buried here.

If one reads this who contemplates divorce, then remember that may be the first step to the ruin of your girl or making a criminal out of your boy.

Ray Hamilton was not reared in a home with a family altar. Friends of the family, those who greatly love them, have urged and plead with the mother to seek the Lord in these last troubled weeks and months. As far as these friends knew, other members of the family who might have influenced Ray, have not been Christians themselves. We cannot see the heart, and none of us can judge as to who is a Christian in the heart and who is not. Only God knows that. But one of the most obvious facts in connection with Ray Hamilton's career is that he was not reared in the influence of a Christian home. The Scripture plainly says,

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov 22:6).

(Raymond Hamilton's brother is also a several - times - convicted criminal, now serving time in Alcatraz Federal Prison, San Francisco. The same kind of home made both boys into the same kind of men).

Movies Helped Make Ray Hamilton a Gangster

Ray Hamilton is reported to have said while on trial for his life at Huntsville, "I can't tell you how to raise children, but I know I learned a lot about hijacking and bank robbing at the movies." So do other boys learn the details of crime in the movies. And worse than that, they see the gangster pictured as a hero who can escape the police, who is more than a match for decent, law abiding people, and one who can get by with-

(Continued on page four)

cruel surface. Heaven, for the time being, had no room for Him so that He cried out in great soul agony, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Why art Thou so far from helping me and from the words of My roaring? "On man's part this all represents hideous sin. From the divine viewpoint it proves that "He bare our sin in His own body, on the tree" so that God, in His holiness and wrath against that sin, turned His back, even upon His own Son, who was being made a curse for us. "It hath pleased the Lord to bruise Him," said Isaiah. "When Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin (by accepting Him as Saviour) He shall see His seed and shall prolong His days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand."

There was no room for the body of Jesus in the cemetery. No grave lot had been provided. He had to be buried in a "borrowed tomb!"

Thank God, there was not enough room to hold Him in the grave, when He who had laid down His life, took it up again—when He who died, came forth from the grave in glorious resurrection.

His apostles went forth preaching this triumph over sin, death and hell to multitudes everywhere. Many believed their word and proved the Gospel of Christ is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Gentile) Rom. 1:16. Other multitudes turned away in unbelief and refused to come to Christ.

What about the great throngs today? His birthday is celebrated everywhere. But is His presence recognized? Do we join the shepherds of old in worshipping Him who was "God manifest in the flesh?" Do we bring our gold, frankincense, and myrrh as did the wise men of long ago? Their gold testified to His deity. The frankincense spoke of the perfection of His devotion to the Father which ascended during His entire earthly career, as a sweet smelling savour to God. The myrrh, used in the burial of the dead, prophesied the efficacy of His work of atonement of the cross.

One of the saddest pictures in the Bible is to see the Lord standing outside the door of the Laodicean church in Rev. 3:20. Think of the Son of God having to knock for admission! Outside, when He should have been within, ruling and filling the interior with the glory of His welcome presence.

Sad? Yes, but glad! For He said, "if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." What glorious fellowship! A table spread and He, the guest of honor! Or should He not be the Host and we the guests?

Gifts at Christmas time? Let us give them gladly in the real spirit of Christmas, but let us not fail to receive that greatest of all gifts—eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." He loved us and gave Himself for us. "Who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Have you made room for Christ? If not, will you join in the happy prayer,

Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus
Come in today, come into stay
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

A few bowed their knees at His birth. Multitudes have bowed before Him, recognizing His lordship from that day to this. The glorious consummation is coming when "every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God, the Father." Let us bow in happy adoration, while we may, and not wait until, although eternally lost, we shall have to bow in subjection to the authority of Him to Whom all judgment has been committed. Let us find room for Christ now while still on earth that He may find room for us in heaven above.

—Charles A. Porter

(From Moody Church News. Used by permission.)

The Electrocution of Raymond Hamilton

(Continued from page three)

out punishment. The modern moving picture show is an unmitigated curse. It is poisoned with the breath of Hell. The lewdness of the movies, their exaltation of crime, their irreverence toward God, their mockery at old fashioned virtue and religion, have made them an unmitigated curse. Decent people should never set foot inside a picture show house, until the movies are cleaned up, if ever that be true. Picture shows, by his own admission, helped make Raymond Hamilton what he was. **Lax Punishment Produces Criminals**

As a boy, Ray Hamilton was guilty of law breaking which went unpunished. Convicted of car theft, he was given a three month's suspended sentence. His companion in crime, Clyde Barrow, was convicted of terrible crimes, but foolishly paroled by the then Governor of Texas, to continue his career of lawlessness. Small wonder that Ray Hamilton was encouraged to continue in crime. Hamilton was convicted with Clyde Barrow of the murder of old man Bucher at Hillsboro, Texas, a cold blooded murder without excuse, and yet he got only the life sentence, and then was allowed to escape. During the main formative years of his life, the Ferguson administration in Texas was turning loose criminals by the thousands, criminals convicted of every crime, including rape and murder, until it became a nationwide disgrace on the State of Texas. Doubtless that policy of lax law enforcement and defeating justice, encouraged young Hamilton to continue in crime.

Some newspaper hailed Raymond Hamilton as a bold man of courage, a hero, a master mind, instead of telling the plain truth that he was an unintelligent moron and an unscrupulous coward. Thousands of ignorant and deluded people wished Raymond Hamilton well, shielded him in crime. Somebody helped him, encouraged him, stole cars for him, brought ammunition with which he could rob banks and kill the innocent. Lax punishment helped make Raymond Hamilton what he was.

May I say this honest, earnest word to parents who hear me or who read this. Many of you are growing other Raymond Hamiltons in your own home. Some of you who read this will soon have a boy who is a hijacker, a common sneak thief, a cowardly murderer. I can give an infallible recipe as to just how you may be the proud parents of such a criminal. Here it is:

First, do not cross the boy. Let him have his own way. Second, do not punish him. Allow him to think he can get by with sin. Third, do not teach him to work, allow him to think he can get by without working to earn an honest living. The slot machine, the poker game, the bridge party, the race track, the bookie shops, these things teach boys to expect something for nothing, teach them to try to get by without paying their way, without earning an honest living. Gambling makes criminals. The gambler is a thief. One who would try to get something for nothing by outguessing someone else and taking his money, may be expected to get the same kind of money later at the point of a gun. Yes, if you want to be the proud parents of a second Raymond Hamilton, do not make your boy mind and do not make him work.

But to earnest, anxious parents (and God knows your task is a difficult one in this modern wicked world!), I say this good word. God will help you to make a decent and honest man or woman out of your child, if you will follow the Bible plan.

First of all, make him mind at any cost. There is no right way to rear children without punishment. Old fashioned as it is, that is God's way. The Bible commands,

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18)

And we are told:

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15)

Yet again we are commanded:

"Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver

his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:13, 14).

God help you, Father or Mother, to do right about your boy. With all earnestness I beg you, make you child obey you. Teach him that law must be respected, that authority must be obeyed. It will take a peach tree switch, a razor strap, a belt, or worse. Happy is the child whose mother and father has beaten him until there were stripes on his body. The Bible says of that, in Proverbs 20:30:

"The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward part of the belly"

Old fashioned corporal punishment (bodily punishment) will save many a boy from capital punishment (the death penalty). Ray Hamilton and every other criminal, were made criminals largely in the home. Some of you today are making criminals in your own home.

In the second place, let you boy or girl be taught to work. Every child who grows up without learning to earn his way is a potential criminal. He expects something for nothing. If he has the boldness, he may take it by force or arms. If he has not the boldness, he may take it by sneak thievery of crooked business. But honest toil is a part of good character. I beg you in Jesus' name, then, to teach your children to obey authority, and to do honest work. So you will help to save them from a life of crime.

Win Your Children To Christ

After all, it comes down to this, the only safe way to raise children is to raise them in the fear of the Lord. Is your home a Christian home? Do you pray together there and read the Bible? Are your children taught about God? If not, then you are missing the only absolutely reliable safeguard around your home. Give me the boy reared by a Christian, praying mother and a praying father who demands and gets obedience and respect in the home, give me the boy taken to church and Sunday School by his own family, give me the boy whose father and mother by earnest prayer and entreaty have won him to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as His own Saviour, and taught to walk the Christian road. That boy will never turn out to be a sneak thief, hijacker, bank robber and gunman like Ray Hamilton. I beg you, learn the lesson this day. America is going on the rocks because of the breakdown of the homes. God give us again old fashioned, Bible reading, God fearing homes, homes of righteousness, good example, prayer, teaching, discipline and Christian influence.

Let every mother who has an unsaved boy bathe her pillow with tears, and bombard Heaven with prayer until her boy is saved. Let every father with a prodigal boy or girl continue in plain warning and unfailing prayer until the prodigal returns. Mother, Father, you are producing the criminals in America. There is no hope of true righteousness without a personal, born-again acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour who regenerates the heart and makes the wicked good.

Sin Will Be Punished

I could not close this sermon without bringing to the attention of all the startling lesson that sudden death brings. Let us go back again to the first Scripture quoted in this sermon.

"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Raymond Hamilton died for his sins and his punishment was just, according to the Scripture. But you who hear me today need to know that the same God will hold you to account likewise for your sins, and "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Ray Hamilton died, but "it is appointed unto men once to die," and you will die, too! Ray Hamilton was a sinner, but I remind you that the Bible says that "death passed upon all men,

for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). Again we are told that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). You who obey the laws of government, the laws of men, but despise the law of God and reject God's Son, you too will one day die. And every unconverted sinner at death will go to the same Hell as unconverted gangsters, murderers and thieves.

After all, the greatest sin Raymond Hamilton ever committed was not murder, nor bank robbery nor kidnapping. The greatest sin that he or any other criminal ever committed was to reject Jesus Christ, to turn his own wicked heart away from God and refuse to repent. And that, my dear friend, is exactly the same sin that will take you to Hell, if you do not repent. I beg you today, to turn your wicked hearts away from sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart. He is your only hope, for "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

This sermon was not preached for Ray Hamilton's sake, but for yours who read. It is too late to do Ray Hamilton any good. Priests need not say mass over any who are dead. Already Ray Hamilton has passed either to Heaven or Hell and is beyond any reach of mankind for good or evil. I would not add to any one's grief, by reviewing the sad facts of Raymond Hamilton's life and death, but for the hope I could save many others from his life of sin, many others from his terrible death and perhaps from eternal doom. I am preaching to keep you who read from going to Hell. Unless you repent, turn from your sins and trust in Christ, then you will go to Hell.

Death For All

How sudden death often is! How unprepared men are! I am certain that as Raymond Hamilton walked toward that huge chair, where he had the mask put over his face and the electrodes put in place that would carry the death dealing bolt, and his arms and legs strapped down — I am certain, I say, that he wished for more time. Death was even yet rather unexpected, a terrible visitor who was not welcome. So it may be with you. Men die suddenly every day with less warning than Ray Hamilton had. An automobile accident, heart failure, a slip of the foot, a house afire in the night, escaping gas, explosion, hijackers — how many things there are than can take a man out suddenly to meet God! And whether sudden or expected, whether swift or slow, death is just around the corner for the man who reads this today! "It is appointed unto men once to die." Reader, we are dying men and women. Get ready today by trusting Christ.

Judgment; The Court That Will Convict Every Criminal

Ray Hamilton was tried again and again, and one jury and then another refused to give him the death penalty until the Huntsville trial. Justice is often thwarted and criminals often go free, in this life. But there is coming a trial when the Lord Jesus Christ will sit in the judge's seat. It will be a trial when every witness will be present and will tell only the truth. It will be the trial when God's books are opened and when death and Hell give up the dead that were in them and the small and great stand before God! Sinner, let us think now, not about Ray Hamilton but about yourself. You stand condemned, a guilty sinner before God. Unless you repent, you will one day have eternal sentence of condemnation in Hell placed upon you. Repent today! Turn while you can. Trust Christ, give Him your heart, be saved!

VIII. Mercy — Pardon If You Repent!

I read with very real pain the story of the last fight to save Hamilton's life. His mother and a preacher friend went to see the Governor, appealing for mercy. A women lawyer tried by legal technicality to thwart justice with a writ of habeas corpus. Hamilton paced the floor and urged Mr. Simmons, head of the prison system, to get in touch with his lawyer. It was with difficulty that the condemned and desperate man was made to realize that his hope was gone. The Board of Pardons had already reviewed his case. Again and again and again he had had the second chance and then another and another. Instead of humil-

ity, he had boasted. Instead of tears, he had a sneer. Three hundred ninety-five years of sentence had been piled upon him and he yet continued his career of crime and murder, so the Board of Pardons had recommended no mercy. The Governor had acted, refusing to interfere. The date was already set. The dreaded midnight hour approached, soon after which he would take the fatal heat and feel that one burning flash that would put him face to face with God, eternity, and eternal retribution and torment, if he did not prepare to meet God.

I say my heart was torn as I thought of the doom of a man with no hope, a man certain to die, a man where no friend could help him. God knows, if it were right, if it would please God, if it could be for good to others, I would have been glad to see him escape the fatal electric charge. But such was not the case, and the government, as the servant of God, must execute judgment on a criminal, for the good of society.

Only one living man, the Governor of Texas, had the authority to stop the execution of Ray Hamilton. That is very much as it is with every sinner. He is condemned already. God and all the angels know him for what he is, a guilty rebel against God, unforgiven, unpurged, headed toward Hell and judgment and eternity in torment. And the one slender hope in all the universe of God is wrapped up in the one word "pardon"! "PARDON!" The only hope of sinners is the pardoning grace of Jesus Christ.

Here is a good place to tell again the sweetest story every told. That old, old well known verse from the Bible, John 3:16, comes again to mind.

Sinner, God Loves You!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "God so loved the world," how good that is!

Christ died to save sinners, what incomparable mercy!

"That whosoever believeth on Him," how simple, how easy! Just to trust in Christ and be saved!

"Shall not perish, but have everlasting life" — not to die, not to be condemned, not to go to Hell! What a wonderful escape that is. What a wonderful inheritance, the everlasting life. Sinner, you may have it all today just by a penitent faith in Jesus who died to save you, I beg you in His dear name, try Him today and be saved.

Could Raymond Hamilton Have Been Saved in His Last Hours?

Suppose at eleven o'clock last Thursday night Raymond Hamilton had come to the consciousness of what a terrible sinner he was. Suppose that with all his soul he turned from sin in grief and shame. Suppose that, facing terrible death in the electric chair, this gangster and murderer had called on God for mercy, wanting forgiveness, wanting salvation, wanting to be right with God. Suppose that with simple childlike faith this criminal should have put his trust in Jesus, the sinless One and trusted Him for pardon and mercy. Suppose that he had depended on Christ to change his wicked heart and make him really a child of God. Suppose he had relied wholly on the shed blood of Jesus, knowing he himself deserved only ruin. If so, would God have saved Raymond Hamilton?

I do not know whether in his heart Raymond Hamilton turned to God. I wish I might know that he did so, but I have no evidence. But thank God, I do know of another case when a like criminal, in his dying hour, turned to Christ for mercy and was saved. Witness the thief on the cross.

Luke 23:39-43 tells us the story. On a central cross hangs Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, dying for my sins and for yours. On the right is another cross. A cursing blaspheming thief hangs there. The pallor of his face is awful. The pains of death are upon him, but he cursed Jesus to His face!

On the other side is another cross, and there hangs another thief. He too feels upon him the languor that spells death. He, too, hanging on the cross till the pain has become insupportable and the blood is dripping away from his wounds, knows that he must soon face God. Now read the story and

see the loving mercy of the Saviour who forgave the dying thief.

"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him saying, if thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom And Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" Luke 23:39-43

The thief did not pray a long prayer. I do not know whether he had any tears, though I suppose he did. It was too late for him to do good deeds. But it was not too late to pray. He simply called on Jesus, "Lord remember me!" And Jesus promised not that in some far distant time, when He should return to reign on the earth, the thief would be remembered in His kingdom. No, Jesus answered him, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise!" Instant forgiveness! Eternal salvation for the asking! Salvation by simple trust in a dying Saviour! How simple it is and how great.

May I give my testimony that that is the way I was saved? I would be as certain for Hell as any criminal ever executed by the arm of the law but for the mercy of God. The blood of Jesus Christ is my only hope. Likewise it is yours. Put your trust in Jesus today and be saved.

If there are those who will trust Christ for salvation or others who long for more help to know the Lord, write to this author, and let me encourage you to put your trust in the Saviour. But, Friends, do it now while you can.

It may be there are those who read, as wicked as Ray Hamilton, as wicked as the thief on the cross. Then today turn with all your heart to Jesus, the friend of sinners, and He will save you! If you will do that, will you let me know? Write a letter or card today. I will rejoice with you. But remember, that the instant you trust Christ, with all your penitent heart, He will forgive and save!

(Write the author, John R. Rice at 145 N. Hale St., Wheaton Ill. if you will repent and trust Christ to save you today, or if you want help to be saved).

WHAT DOES GOD

(Continued from page one)

them mine?

Is my life saturated with Prayer? Do I pray and get answers? Have I learned how to pray? Do I merely say prayers, or do I pray? And are my prayers availing? Is prayer a real, vital thing to me?

IV. What Does God Think of My Christian Progress?

Am I making progress in Spiritual things? Am I a growing Christian? Am I better this year than last? Is Jesus more real to me? Can my friends see any difference in me? Are the old weaknesses and failings of the flesh disappearing, and is the fruit of the Spirit becoming increasingly mine?

Am I making progress against sin, especially my besetting sin? Has it been conquered, the sin that at one time conquered me? Do I want to be delivered from it? Is there still some cherished idol shutting out His peace and power, His presence, sunshine and love? Do I believe that He is able to keep me from falling, that all power is His?

And now, having honestly faced these four vital questions, what is the answer? We often testify that Jesus satisfies. But suppose we turn it around and ask, "Is He satisfied? Is God pleased with me?" For all that matters, all that is important, is our Lord's estimate of us. Has He been disappointed, or are we pleasing in His sight? Does He take delight in us? What does God think of me?

From the book "The Man God Uses," published in England by Marshall, Morgan and Scott, Ltd. Used by express agreement with Dr. Smith.

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